

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 018866

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, JA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US-JAPAN NEGOTIATIONS

1. ON JANUARY 24, JAPANESE EMBOFF INFORMED DEPARTMENT GOJ
COULD NOT ACCEPT US PROPOSAL TO HOLD NEXT ROUND OF CIVAIR
BILATERAL TALKS DURING WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7 AND PROPOSED,
AS ALTERNATIVE, WEEK OF MARCH 7. TEXT OF JAPANESE AIDE
MEMOIRE FOLLOWS: QUOTE IN REFERENCE TO THE DEPARTMENT
OF STATE'S NOTE, DATED JANUARY 5, REGARDING THE RESUMPTION
OF THE JAPAN-UNITED STATES BILATERAL AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS,
JAPAN WELCOMES THE UNITED STATES' POSITION THAT THE OVER-
ALL REVIEW OF THE CURRENT CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS THE QUESTION OF
SAIPAN-JAPAN AIR SERVICE, WILL BE TREATED DURING THE
CONSULTATION. JAPAN DOES NOT OBJECT TO THE UNITED STATES'
PROPOSAL THAT THE SAIPAN ISSUE WOULD PRECEDE THE OTHER
ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD
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THAT WHILE JAPAN WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO REACH A REASONA-
BLE INTERIM SOLUTION OF THE SAIPAN ISSUE, TO BE APPLIED
UNTIL THE SATISFACTORY REFORMULATION OF OUR BILATERAL
CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT, IT IS THE POSITION OF THE
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT THAT THE OVERALL REVIEW OF THE CURRENT
CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN THE
COURSE OF THE SAID CONSULTATION, REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME

OF THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE SAIPAN ISSUE.

QUOTE WITH RESPECT TO THE TIMING OF THE CONSULTATION,
THE JAPANESE DELEGATION IS UNABLE TO MEET IN THE WEEK
BEGINNING FEBRUARY 7, AND WISHES TO PROPOSE THAT TALKS
RESUME DURING THE PERIOD OF MARCH 7-11 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

2. ON JANUARY 27, DEPARTMENT INFORMED JAPANESE EMBOFF
THAT MARCH 7 WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO USG BECAUSE OF PRIOR
NEGOTIATIONS COMMITMENT AND PROPOSED, IN TURN, WEEK OF
MARCH 21. IT WAS EXPLAINED TO EMBOFF THAT NEGOTIATIONS
COULD BE FOR ONLY ONE WEEK AND THAT NO OTHER FREE TIME
WAS AVAILABLE FOR TALKS UNTIL END OF APRIL.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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